

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1446

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3263

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 4164

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR WORKING GROUP MEETING, SEPTEMBER 4

REF: A) USNATO 4082; B) USNATO 4163 C) USNATO 4076

SUMMARY: WORKING GROUP MEETING SEPTEMBER 4 APPROVED REVISED DRAFT REPORT ON SHAPE ASSESSMENT OF U.S. APRIL 30 PAPER; DISCUSSED BRIEFLY SHAPE'S ASSESSMENT OF OPTION III OF U.S. APRIL 30 PAPER AND DECIDED TO DEFER FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF IT UNTIL CAPITALS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY IT IN DETAIL; ALSO AGREED TO DEFER DISCUSSION OF ITS REVISED DRAFT REPORT ON COMBAT CAPABILITY FOR SAME REASON; AGREED TO POSTPONE DISCUSSION ON DRAFT REPORT BY SUBGROUP ON VERIFICATION PENDING INPUT OF PROMISED U.S. CONTRIBUTION; DISCUSSED STUDY OF REDUCTIONS IN TACTICAL AIRCRAFT AND AGREED TO DROP PROPOSAL FOR DOAE ANALYSIS OF UNILATERAL REDUCTION OF 50 DUAL CAPABLE AIRCRAFT; IN CONCLUSION DECIDED TO FINALIZE SECOND REPORT ON MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO INCORPORATE CHAPTERS V AND VI. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 11. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR SEPTEMBER 11 WG MEETING. END SUMMARY  
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1. CHAIRMAN (MINTER) OPENED MEETING BY ASKING WHETHER WG NOW PREPARED TO ACCEPT REVISED TEXT OF ITS REPORT ON SHAPE'S ASSESSMENT OF U.S. APRIL 30 PAPER (AC/276-WP(73)18/1(2ND REVISE), TRANSMITTED REFTEL A. U.S. REP (REDECKER) ADVISED THAT ON INSTRUCTIONS

HE WAS NOW AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT REPORT. UK REP (LLOYD) NOTED THAT RE PARA 10, CONCEPT OF SOVIET TROOPS BEING PLACED IN RESERVE STATUS COULD CONFUSE UNINITIATED READER IF PARENTHESIZED TERM "UNITS DISBANDED" ALSO INCLUDED. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT LAST SENTENCE PARA 10 CREATED INCORRECT IMPRESSION THAT THERE WERE WAYS TO "PREVENT" AN INCREASE IN THE THREAT. TO SOLVE PROBLEM WG AGREED TO HAVE DESCRIPTIVE PHRASE IN FIRST SENTENCE PLACED IN QUOTES SINCE IT IS DRAWN FROM SHAPE TEXT AND TO REPHRASE LAST SENTENCE TO INDICATE THAT "THERE MAY BE OTHER WAYS TO PREVENT AN INCREASE," ETC. PAPER WILL NOW BE CALLED TO ATTENTION OF MC SPC AS APPROVED WG DOCUMENT.

2. CHAIRMAN THEN TOOK UP SHAPE ASSESSMENT OF THIRD REDUCTION CONCEPT IN U.S. APRIL 30 PAPER, WHICH WAS CIRCULATED AS SHAPE CTS DOCUMENT 1000 1/20-5-4-/73 ON AUGUST 31 (TEXT TRANSMITTED REF B). IN VIEW OF HIGH SENSITIVITY AND CORRESPONDING SHAPE CLASSIFICATION, SG MEMBER (CULIN) ADVISED THAT DECISION REACHED NOT TO CIRCULATE IT AS AN AC/276 SERIES DOCUMENT. CHAIRMAN ASKED FOR COMMENTS, BUT NOTED THAT IN VIEW OF LATE DISTRIBUTION IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE REALISTIC TO EXPECT DETAILED DISCUSSION OF DOCUMENT AT THIS MEETING. IMPORTANCE OF SUBSTANCE HOWEVER JUSTIFIED PLACING IT ON AGENDA AT THIS TIME, AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION BY WG WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE NECESSARY. SEVERAL REPS (FRG, UK, ITALY) PRAISED PRECISION AND LUCIDITY OF DOCUMENT, AND AGREED IT WAS A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION DESERVING CAREFUL STUDY. U.S. REP CONCURRED IN GENERAL SENTIMENTS AND STATED ON PERSONAL BASIS THAT HE BELIEVED HIS AUTHORITIES SHOULD HAVE FULL OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW DOCUMENT BEFORE IT IS DISCUSSED BY WG. TO CHAIRMAN'S QUESTION WHETHER INSTRUCTED COMMENTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE BY NEXT MEETING (SEPT 11), UK REP RESPONDED IT OUT OF QUESTION THAT HE WOULD HAVE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE AT LEAST TWO WEEKS. THIS VIEW WAS SHARED BY SEVERAL OTHER REPS, AND CHAIRMAN THEREFORE AGREED TO INCLUDE ITEM ON NEXT WEEK'S AGENDA, MERELY TO BEGIN INITIAL DISCUSSION AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTION RAISING. COMMENT: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY PRELIMINARY WASHINGTON COMMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK'S MEETING. CONFIDENTIAL

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END COMMENT.

3. CHAIRMAN THEN TURNED TO A NEW REVISION OF WG DRAFT REPORT ON COMBAT CAPABILITY, DISTRIBUTED 30 AUGUST AS AC/276-WP(73)27(REVISED), TRANSMITTED BY REF C. SINCE THIS DOCUMENT SUPERSEDES THE ONE CONTAINED IN USNATO 3954 TO WHICH GUIDANCE IN STATE 174761 REFERS, U.S. REP OBSERVED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO OPPORTUNITY FOR WASHINGTON TO STUDY DOCUMENT AND PROPOSED ON PERSONAL BASIS THAT ITEM BE CARRIED OVER TO NEXT MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION. POINT WAS AGREED TO AND FURTHER DETAILED DISCUSSION THEREFORE DEFERRED. COMMENT: MISSION FINDS DOCUMENT CONSIDERABLY MORE BALANCED AND A SUBSTANTIAL RELAXATION FROM FOCUS ON UNIT COMBAT CAPABILITY AS THE CENTRAL CRITERION ON WHICH TO BASE REDUCTION PROPOSALS. PRINCIPAL DIFFICULTY IN PAPER MAY BE IN PHRASING OF PARA 11

(CONCLUSIONS). FIRST PROBLEM IS WITH RESPECT TO IMPLIED OBSERVATION IN SUBPARA (B) RE EXISTENCE OF ADEQUATE METHODS FOR MEASURING U.S. COMBAT CAPABILITY. SECOND PROBLEM COULD BE LANGUAGE ON NEED FOR GREATER EMPHASIS ON COMBAT CAPABILITY PROBLEM IN LATER PHASES OF REDUCTIONS, AS IDENTIFIED IN SUBPARAS (A) AND (D). REQUEST GUIDANCE. END COMMENT

4. TURNING TO SUBGROUP'S REPORT ON VERIFICATION (AC/276-(SGVE-WP/6, USNATO 3957), CHAIRMAN INVITED WG COMMENTS. THIS PRODUCED LENGTHY, SOMEWHAT DISJOINTED DISCUSSION ON CERTAIN SUBSTANTIVE POINTS, ADEQUACY OF DOCUMENT'S FORMAT, DESIRABILITY OF INCLUDING AMPLIFYING INFORMATION, AND BASIC PROBLEM OF PARA 11. U.S. REP NOTED THAT, AT AUGUST 29 MEETING POINT WAS MADE THAT U.S. INTENDED TO SUBMIT TO NATO IN THE NEAR FUTURE A PAPER ON NEGOTIATED INSPECTION MEASURES; PER HIS LATEST INSTRUCTIONS HE AGAIN WISHED TO URGE WG TO DEFER DISCUSSION OF VERIFICATION AS WELL AS SUBGROUP'S PAPER UNTIL U.S. HAD SUBMITTED ITS CONTRIBUTION. IF WG WISHED TO PROCEED WITH REVIEW OF PAPER, HE CONCLUDED, U.S. WOULD NOT OPPOSE, BUT IN THAT CASE HE WOULD HAVE TO RESERVE ON ENTIRE PAPER. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, WG AGREED TO AWAIT U.S. CONTRIBUTION BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER, BUT CHAIRMAN URGED U.S. REP TO DETERMINE WHEN DOCUMENT WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE. REQUEST INDICATION FOR SEPTEMBER 11 MEETING AS TO WHEN MISSION CAN EXPECT TO RECEIVE U.S. PAPER.

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3264

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 4164

5. AFTER CHAIRMAN RAISED AGENDA ITEM ON STUDY OF PRECAUTIONS IN TACTICAL AIRCRAFT, U.S. REP INTERVENED TO NOTE THAT U.S.

CONTINUED TO OPPOSE DOAE UNDERTAKING THIRD TASK OF STUDYING UNILATERAL NATO REDUCTION OF 50 DUAL CAPABLE AIRCRAFT, SINCE SUCH A STUDY WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO WG/SG ANALYSIS OF A U.S. RECUTION OPTION. SHAPE (REP (GRIFFIN) CONCURRED, FOR DIFFERENT REASONS, SAYING THAT AS A UNILATERAL MEASURE, IT WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE A TRUE ANALYTICAL PROBLEM. UK REP AGREED NOT TO PRESS FOR THIS POINT IN FACE OF U.S. OPPOSITION AND LACK OF SHAPE ENTHUSIASM. WG THEREFORE ACCEPED DELETION ON UNDERSTANDING THAT 10/10 AND 10/30 TACAIR REDUCTION ANALYSES WOULD GO FORWARD. REPLYING TO CHAIRMAN'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER DELETION WOULD EXPEDITE COMPLETION OF STUDY, TACAIR SUB-GROUP CHAIRMAN (DAWSON) SAID HE DID NOT THINK SO, BUT ALSO ADDED THAT HE WISHED TO RETAIN ABILITY TO LOOK AT ADDITIONAL REDUCTION OPTIONS SHOULD THIS BE CALLED FOR. HE HOPED U.S. OPPOSITION TO UNILATERAL OPTION WOULD NOT EXTEND TO OTHERS.

6. UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS U.S. REP NOTED THAT HE HAD NOW BEEN AUTHORIZED TO ENDORSE THE SECOND REPORT ON MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS  
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(AC/276-WP(73)16(REVISED) AS A PURELY TECHNICAL STUDY. CHAIRMAN WELCOMED U.S. POSITION BUT NOTED THAT PROPOSED GREEK AMENDMENT ON AMPHIBIOUS FORCES HAD NOT YET BEEN WITHDRAWN, AND THAT SEVERAL DELEGATIONS CONTINUED TO HAVE DIFFICULTIES WITH PARA 15. CANADIAN REP (BECKETT) NOTED THAT DOCUMENT STILL MISSING CHAPTERS 5 AND 6 AND PROPOSED, IN VIEW OF EXISTING DELAY TO AWAIT COMPLETION OF LATTER TWO CHAPTERS. THIS PRECIPITATED INVOLVED DISCUSSION ON STATUS AND PROBLEMS OF THESE TWO CHAPTERS WITH GENERAL AGREEHENT BEING REACHED ON FRG REP'S TBSERVATION THAT CONSENSUS ON CHAPTERS 5 AND 6, ESPECIALLY LATTER, WAS STILL LONG WAY OFF. AS A RESULT, AND IN LINE WITH CHAIRMAN'S ORIGINAL DESIRE, CURRENT PAPER SHOULD GO FORWARD AS IS, AND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CHAIRMAN AGREED TO MAKE FURTHER CHANGES WHEN RECEIVED, PRODUCE A FINALIZED VERSION AND SEEK EARLY WG APPROVAL OF THE REVISED DRAFT.

7. WG THEN HEARD STATUS REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF DATA SUBGROUP AND AGREED TO HOLD NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11. CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED THAT AGENDA WOULD INCLUDE:

A. DISCUSSION ON SHAPE ASSESSMENT TO OPTION III

B. COMBAT CAPABILITY

C. SECOND REPORT ON MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS, AS REVISED.  
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